Ancient Rome G.E.T. Captions

Caption 1- Rome

According to Our World, The city of Rome was located along the Tiber River Delta on the central-west coast of the Italian Peninsula in the Latium Valley. It was originally founded by Romulus and Remus on some hills south of the Tiber River. The city in its later years of its Republic and Empire grew in size around the whole River. The climate is a mild/hot Mediterranean climate. The Latium Valley is surrounded by inactive volcanoes, and has rocky hills and rolling plains that conceal very fertile soil.

According to Peter Temin’s Essay, The economy of Rome is a common powerful empire’s economy, but it also has unique qualities to it. Rome had lots of grain and other foods so it could sustain itself from its own farms in the Latium Valley, but since the people of the city of Rome were in plenty, and that it was the capital of the Roman Empire, lots of imports and goods came to Rome from the rest of the Empire. Rome had no need what-so-ever to really trade a lot with other nations, because Rome had enough resources within its Empire. Rome’s farms in the Latium Valley grew and harvested; wheat, barley, lettuce, tomatoes, grapes, olives, beans, cabbage, nuts, apples, peaches, and more fruits and vegetables. The most commonly domesticated animals were; cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats. One main crop that many other lands didn’t have was olives, which were turned into olive oil and lotion. This “cash crop” was a very costly export that brought in a lot of goods and money.

According to Our World and Peter Temin’s Essay, The most common jobs for commons and freedmen are: farmers, soldiers, tribunes, metalworkers, brewers, millers, wine-workers, [architects and mapmakers: equestrians], merchants, craftsmen, fullers, and many more jobs. Higher class jobs were; senators, consuls, representatives, judges, generals, and some other higher class jobs. The market of Rome was located in the center of the city, where the forum is located. The forum of a Roman city is the main marketplace/ business district/ workshop area. At the markets you can buy goods, sell goods, and borrow money. This system is called a loan in which you borrow money, and then over a period of time give it back. With all of the large scale production of Rome’s factories and such, the markets were almost never deserted!! Many craftsmen sold their goods to high-class buyers, for support. People who supported a craftsmen’s work were called patrons. Slaves were also a “job” of Rome. Rome’s slaves were usually very poor people from conquered places like; Egypt, North Africa, Israel, Britannia, and other conquered places. The people of Rome had to pay taxes to the Republic of Rome for all of their comfort and power. A Republic is what the United States of America have today. Rome collected lots of its money from [sometimes unreasonable] taxes on people in the Roman Empire.

According to Our World and Peter Temin’s Essay, Rome was a city of inventions, tools, and ideas. Lots of tools, inventions, and ideas were produced from, and used by Rome. One tool that the Roman used was the arching aqueduct. It is a standing aqueduct with arches that were its support, instead of burying it underground. The Romans were really the first civilization to use the arch in building and architecture widely. The arch was a very strong structure that could hold 10x its own weight!! Speaking of arches, the Roman built stone/concrete bridges that were supported by arches. That is another Roman use for the arch. The Roman used concrete as a building material more than stone because it was stronger and easier to form into whatever you wanted it to be. Focusing on public buildings; the Romans had public baths with heated floors, so that people could bathe easily. Sometimes public baths even contained libraries, museums, art galleries, and sometimes, theaters!!! Focusing on the general city, the Romans were the first to have; ground floor shops, and top floor apartments. This was an effective way to reduce space. People still do this today too! The city of Rome [like all roman cities] had a block road system. For entertainment, the Romans had large theaters where games went on, called Colosseums. To count the people of Rome; during the Pax Romana, a census was declared, that would count all of the people in the Roman Empire, including Rome. Those are some tools, inventions, and ideas of Rome.

Caption 2- Pompeii

According to Our World, The city of Pompeii was located in the southeastern bay of the Bay of Naples. It is also on the southern-central coast of the Italian Peninsula. The city lies at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius, an active volcano that is still active today. The soil near Pompeii is very fertile, including volcanic rock, which is very fertile. The landscape is pretty high above sea-level and is full of rolling slopes and ridges. The climate is a mild/hot Mediterranean climate.

According to Our World and Peter Temin’s Essay, The city of Pompeii was one of the most important cities economically to the mighty Roman Empire besides Rome. It was a hub, along with Naples where food exports and other exports came out like smoke from a burning house! The bay was a super-center of exports, imports, and trading that almost equaled the trades Rome! The city was in a good position for foreign trade, and interior trade. It had a port at Herculaneum that had an easier route to access then Rome’s, because lots of goods came from the southern areas. With all of the farms on the fertile soil of the mountain, the city of Pompeii grew; tomatoes, onions, lettuce, beans, wheat, barley, cabbage, nuts, grapes, olives, and many other crops. The farms of Pompeii also domesticated and slaughtered cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats that were exported throughout the Empire. The most common jobs for commons and freedmen are: farmers, soldiers, tribunes, metalworkers, brewers, millers, wine-workers, [architects and mapmakers: equestrians], merchants, craftsmen, fullers, and many more jobs. Higher class jobs were; senators, consuls, representatives, judges, generals, and some other higher class jobs. Slaves were also part of the labor of Pompeii. These slaves came from; Egypt, Israel, North Africa, Britannia, Gaul, and other provinces. The forum of Pompeii was where the grand market and shops were located. At these shops and markets what went on was; borrowing, buying, and selling. Focusing on borrowing money, this was called taking a loan. This meant that you took out money and had to repay it on a chosen basis. Sometimes famous craftsmen’s workshops were located somewhat near the forum. Craftsmen sold their goods to high class equestrians and others to have them be their patron, or in simple language; supporter. Taxes were even announced or posted in the forum. The people of Pompeii had to pay taxes, based on what they owned and such to keep the population of the Empire paying to the Republic Government. Sometimes even small factories or places that produced mass production items were located near the forum of Pompeii.

According to Our World, the people of Pompeii used many Roman tools, inventions, and ideas. One of the most important tools the people of Pompeii used was the arch. This was one of the most famous tools that the Romans were known for. They used it to build bridges, aqueducts; that still stand today, and public buildings. The people of Pompeii mainly used concrete as their main building material. This was so because it was easier to sculpt than stone, but was stronger in buildings. Think about it, what if all of our buildings were made of weak stones, and there was a hurricane? What if all of our buildings were made out of strong concrete blocks and there was a hurricane? BIG difference!! One other invention that the Romans were famous for was the public baths. These were kind of like large public pools with heated floors. Usually outside of the bathhouse there were museums, libraries, art galleries, and sometimes large theaters! Though most of the time, theaters were located separately. Focusing on main city elements; Pompeii was a city divided up into blocks, and each block in between the road had a certain number of buildings, like our cities are today!! The people of Pompeii also had buildings with shops on the bottom floor, and apartments on the top floor. This was a convenient way to take up less space in the city. The people of Pompeii, and the whole Roman Empire used this method of building structure. Sometimes, craftsmen workshops, not shops, were on the bottom floor of the double floor buildings. This was common in the “industrial/working” area of the city. Another famous part of the city of Pompeii was the large Colosseum at the eastern end of the city. Colosseums are large theaters, like Greek amphitheaters, except it was used for gladiatorial battling to the death. This was a common entertainment form in the Roman Empire. In the Pax Romana, Caesar let put a decree that said that all people in the Roman Empire shall be counted. This was the first time that a census was used. A census is a count of something in total. People do censuses today to count the people of the world. These were some tools that the Pompeian people used.